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November 16, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Pai,

It has come to my attention that multiple Missouri entities have submitted appeals to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) related to funding adjustments for previously approved E-Rate projects. It is my hope that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will work with my staff and the applicants to determine if USAC's decisions are aligned with stated FCC policies and instructions.

One of these appeals, subsequently filed with the FCC in March 2018, is from MOREnet, a consortium of nearly 600 Missouri educational institutions and libraries. In a June 2017 statement, USAC stated that MOREnet miscalculated the discount rate for the consortium's 2013 and 2014 applications. This determination resulted in a significant commitment adjustment for MOREnet's consortium.

MOREnet claims to have used the same exact methodology that USAC uses today to calculate discount rates for consortia applications. Additionally, the calculation methods used by MOREnet have been openly accepted by USAC in multiple previous applications which were approved. My constituents are unaware of any E-Rate rule changes that would have prompted a commitment adjustment based on these criteria.

I appreciate and agree with the FCC's intent to root out fraud and abuse in Universal Service Fund programming. However, I hope the FCC will help me understand how MOREnet's commitment adjustment from USAC aligns with stated administrative rules, instructions, and FCC policies. Additionally, I ask that the Wireline Competition Bureau consider MOREnet's appeal.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I look forward to working with the FCC and USAC to ensure that E-Rate funding can reach Missouri's libraries and classrooms without broadband access.

Sincere regards,



Roy Blunt
United States Senator



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 28, 2018

The Honorable Roy Blunt
United States Senate
260 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

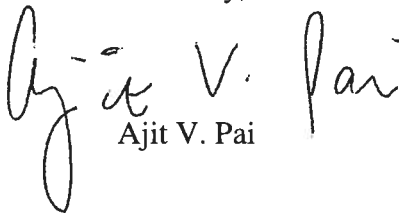
Dear Senator Blunt:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Missouri Research and Education Network's (MOREnet's) appeal of the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC's) decision to recover E-rate funding.

MOREnet filed a Request for Review of the USAC decision on March 23, 2018. Although I cannot comment on the merits of this issue, I can assure you that we will take into consideration the issues and concerns presented by all stakeholders as the Commission makes every effort to conclude its review in accordance with the law and the facts. As in all such cases, we will strive to achieve the E-rate program's goal of providing important resources to eligible schools and libraries, while protecting the program from potential waste, fraud, and abuse.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai